

Emergency Responder

WASHINGTON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

March-April 2003



Washington Emergency Management Division employees, Paul McNeill, left, and Ray Cross, center, discuss computer data compiled as part of the critical infrastructure assessment conducted during the 30-day Operation Liberty Shield state Emergency Operations Center activation. The assessment, undertaken at the request of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, will provide a valuable tool to help the state respond to all types of future emergencies. (EMD Photo)

Emergency communications bill signed by governor

A measure to enhance the interoperability of emergency communications systems in Washington passed without a dissenting vote in the 2003 Legislature and was signed by Gov. Gary Locke on April 16. The measure, House Bill 1271, will take effect July 1.

The bill will create a new State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) under the Information Services Board in the Department of Information Services.

Committee members would include representatives of the Military, Transportation, Information Services (DIS) and Natural Resources departments; the Washington State Patrol (WSP); state and local fire chiefs; police chiefs; sheriffs; and state and local emergency managers.

The SIEC will develop policies and recommendations to ensure the interoperability of emergency communications across the state. It also will serve as a point of contact with the Federal Communications Commission on issues relating to the allocation, use and licensing of public safety and emergency communications systems.

HB 1271 requires the committee to submit to the Legislature an inventory of all public safety systems within the state and a plan to ensure the interoperability of those systems. The bill's report and survey deadlines are as follows:

Continued on page 4—

State agencies directed to prepare response plans

Gov. Gary Locke has directed state agencies and institutions to develop detailed response plans to changes in the national terrorist threat level issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The governor's directive was announced April 8.

"This directive is designed to protect our citizens by ensuring that all state agencies act quickly, clearly and effectively to changes in the national threat level," Locke said. "We must be ready to respond to homeland security alerts while continuing to provide essential services."

Under the directive, each agency will perform a risk assessment to help update emergency management plans to include appropriate responses to Department of Homeland Security threat alerts.

It will be up to the agency directors to determine the level of urgency for completing these amendments.

"Because of the unique nature of each agency, not all agencies or institutions will respond to the threat alerts in the same way. I encourage other state elected officials to amend their emergency preparedness plans as well," Locke said. "Advance planning is the most effective way to respond to future alerts."

The Washington Military Department has developed guidelines for agencies to use in amending their plans. The department will assist each agency, institution, board and commission to develop or update its plan as well as provide additional information and feedback.

For questions regard these plans, contact Jeff Parsons, in EMD's Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit, at (253) 512-7065.

State plans for new federal homeland security money

Gov. Gary Locke has endorsed the state's plan to distribute federal homeland security funds assigned to Washington in federal fiscal year 2003. The plan needs final approval from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security before the state can tap the \$11.2 million allocated to Washington this fiscal year for domestic security programs.

In early April, the state Committee on Terrorism recommended to the state Emergency Management Council a proposal that was sent to the governor that would assign \$7.9 million of Washington's domestic preparedness funds to equipment purchases, including \$6.3 million for equipment purchases for local governments and \$1.5 million for interoperable communications equipment for the Washington State Patrol.

The COT also proposed to pass through \$1.8 million in training exercise funds to the state's nine homeland security regions. These funds would underwrite tabletop and functional exercises and a

coordinator position in each of the nine homeland security regions.

The state would use an additional \$145,000 in federal training exercise funds to finance an exercise coordinator position and conduct a state agency functional exercise.

In the area of training courses, the COT approved a training subcommittee recommendation to use \$594,000 of new federal homeland security funding to create a new on-line awareness level training program through the existing training academies such as the Criminal Justice Training Commission in Burien or the State Fire Academy near North Bend.

The COT's proposal would assign \$300,000 in federal planning and administration domestic preparedness funds to counties to update vulnerability assessments. The plan also would direct \$100,000 to a statewide critical infrastructure study and \$393,000 to the state for continuation of its consequence management effort.

DNR awarded grant for mapping project

Washington's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has received a \$588,495 grant from Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for seismic hazard mapping across the state.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds were awarded in February as part of the recovery assistance money received from FEMA after the Nisqually Earthquake disaster of 2001. FEMA's share of the grant was \$441,371, and the state provided an additional \$147,124.

Under the mapping program, DNR's Geology and Earth Resources Division will help cities and counties identify geologically hazardous areas. Local governments then can use the maps to prepare effective disaster mitigation plans and ordinances to address those hazards.

Amber Project Slated

Washington state announced plans April 21 for a pilot project to test the viability of a multi-state Amber Alert web portal, offering a single location from which the media, law enforcement and the public can obtain current Amber Alerts on abducted children, regardless of the jurisdiction posting the information.

The pilot project, which is to be completed in May, was developed by the state Department of Information Services, the Washington State Patrol, the state Emergency Management Division and the Engaging & Empowering Citizenship/Earth 911 group.

The web portal will use a geographic information system or provide map-based search capabilities, and convey location-based information to the public. Law enforcement, media and citizens can use the portal to be notified of alerts and status updates via e-mail, fax or phone, pager or personal data assistant.

Nisqually earthquake's second anniversary update

The second anniversary of the magnitude 6.8 Nisqually Earthquake passed on Feb. 28. Here is a rundown on the earthquake costs and recovery efforts two years after the disaster:

- Total damage exceeded \$2 billion.
- A University of Washington study estimated the earthquake caused damages totaling \$1.5 billion to 300,000 Puget Sound area residences.
- A record 41,414 persons registered for disaster aid.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved \$52.6 million in temporary housing assistance and \$3.3 million for individual family grants.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration approved 6,263 loans totaling \$84.7 million for homeowners, renters, businesses and private non-profit groups.
- Federal, state and local governments have obligated \$75 million to 342 public and eligible non-profit agencies and Indian nations for earthquake repairs. About \$26 million has been paid out so far.
- A total of \$15.7 million in grants has been awarded to 17 mitigation projects that will reduce property damage and economic loss in future disasters.

Seattle receives federal homeland security funds

Seattle will receive \$11.3 million as part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Urban Area Security Initiative financed by the federal fiscal year 2003 budget. DHS announced the award April 8.

The program also assigned funds to New York; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles; Chicago; San Francisco; and Houston.

State repatriation plan undergoes first test

Washington's repatriation plan underwent its first functional test in a Feb. 25 exercise at the state Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) in Burien.

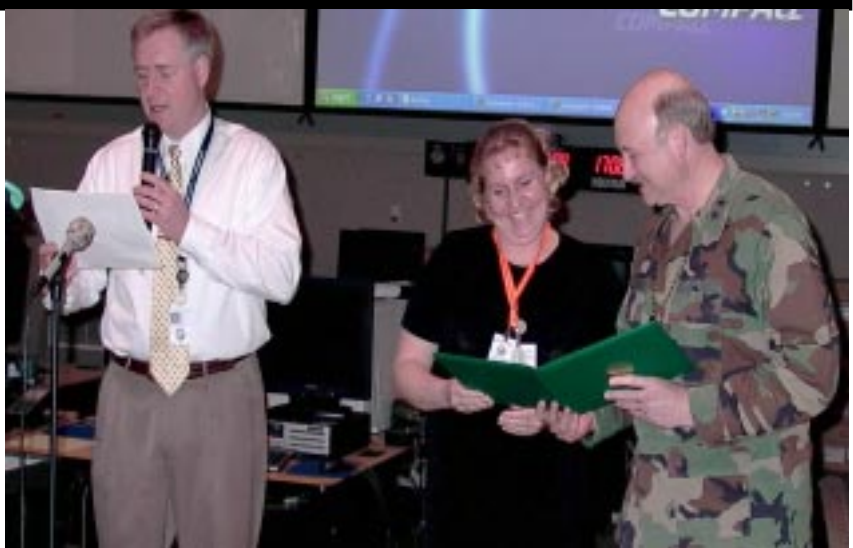
The state plan was assembled under the direction of federal agencies to assist in the emergency return of overseas U.S. citizens and dependents.

"It was a successful exercise," said Mark Kogle, the plan's coordinator in the Emergency Management Division. "We had good representation from all participating agencies and the exercise identified a number of areas to improve and update in the plan."

Eighty-four staff members participated in the exercise with another 25 persons working as exercise role-players.

Issues identified in the all-day exercise were:

- Additional CJTC space is needed for incident command staff, public information, baggage, and repatriate reception and queuing.
- Repatriate transportation to medical, retail, motels and other services.
- Crisis counseling for repatriates.
- Additional staff and volunteers to handle repatriate travel arrangements.
- Lack of guidance and training in the repatriate cash advance system.
- Lack of flow management of repatriates through the CJTC auditorium processing area.
- Recruitment and coordination of volunteers.
- Improved communication with the U.S. Department of State.
- Assistance for pet owners and their pets.



Karin Frinell-Hanrahan (center) was presented a Washington Army National Guard Commander's Award for Public Service in March by Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Lowenberg (right), director, Washington Military Department, and Glen Woodbury, (left), director, Washington Emergency Management Division. The award honored her "exceptionally meritorious achievement" as Grays Harbor County deputy director of Emergency Management from April 1998 to December 2002 and as a member of the Washington State Tsunami Working Group. The award noted that her work had enhanced coastal community public safety and had led her local emergency partners to develop and adopt a county comprehensive emergency plan. (EMD Photo)

Legislature passes fire, law enforcement mobilization bill

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) would oversee emergency state mobilizations of both fire and law enforcement personnel and resources under legislation that is headed to the governor.

Senate Bill 5935, which received final legislative approval April 23, would transfer fire mobilization duties from the Washington Military Department to WSP.

Maj. Gen. Frank Scoggins, Washington Air National Guard commander, testified April 1 that the bill would streamline fire mobilization and centralize it under the State Fire Marshal in the WSP's Fire Protection Bureau.

Currently, the state adjutant general approves the fire mobilization, WSP orders and coordinates resources, and the Washington Emergency Management Division (WEMD) pays the fire mobilization bills.

If the bill becomes law, Scoggins said that EMD would help transfer the program to WSP and would continue to support the WSP and other agencies that respond to wildfire emergencies.

Provisions from another bill were added in the House to SB 5935 in order to establish a new law enforcement mobilization policy board and plan. Modeled on the state fire mobilization law, the bill would authorize the WSP chief to declare a state mobilization of regional or statewide law enforcement resources when an emergency exceeds the capabilities of local law enforcement agencies.

SB 5935 would establish a state Law Enforcement Mobilization Plan in the state Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan. The measure also creates a state law enforcement mobilization policy board, headed by the WSP chief.

The board would consult with local emergency management and law enforcement agencies and would make recommendations to the WSP chief on refinements in the state plan.

Under terms of the bill, WSP will develop procedures in conjunction with the state Office of Financial Management and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to reimburse jurisdictions that provide personnel and equipment for the law enforcement mobilization.

Seven counties share \$320,000 APCO grant

Seven Washington counties were awarded a \$320,000 Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO), International grant in February to improve their E911 system delivery. The counties also received a 25 percent state match, totaling \$106,667 from the Washington Enhanced 911 (E911) program.

The awards were as follows:

- Adams and Lincoln counties: \$39,000 from the APCO grant and \$13,000 in state matching funds.
- Lewis, Chelan, Pacific, Whitman and San Juan counties: \$281,000 from the APCO grant and \$93,667 in state matching funds.

Communications bill

Continued from page 1—

- Dec. 31, 2003: an inventory of all state government-owned public safety communications systems;
- March 31, 2004: an interim report on the statewide public safety communications plan;
- July 31, 2004: an inventory of all public safety communications systems within the state;
- Dec. 31, 2004: a final statewide public safety communications plan.

The Washington Emergency Management Division, WSP, DIS, and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs supported the final version of the bill.

Personnel

Jim Schoonover was honored March 28 for his 10 years of state service. Since joining EMD in 1992, he has served as operations unit manager and as a planner in the Fixed Nuclear Facility and Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness programs. He became the Policy, Programs and Training unit manager in 2002.

Sidse Nielsen, secretary senior in the mitigation section of the Mitigation, Analysis and Plans Unit, was recognized March 28 for her five years of state service.

Diane Offord was honored in March by the Governor as an Outstanding Manager Nominee in the Governor's outstanding sustained leadership category for her ability to perform a variety of difficult governmental functions over the past 10 years in positions of ever increasing responsibility.

Glen Woodbury was honored in March by the Governor as a nominee for an Outstanding Manager for his national leadership in emergency management and for his ever increasing leadership over the past year in homeland security.

New EMD web address

Effective April 17, the Washington State Emergency Management Division internet website changed its address to <<http://emd.wa.gov>>.

Homeland security coordinators named

Coordinators have been named in eight of the state's nine regional homeland security districts. The coordinators are:

- Region 1, Nancy Franze.
- Region 2, John Szymanski.
- Region 3, John Taylor.
- Region 4, Tamie Cody.
- Region 5, De Hendrix.
- Region 6, Kathryn Howard.
- Region 7, Dean Curtis.
- Region 8, Lisa Toomey.
- Region 9, Dave Brynes.

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Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg,
The Adjutant General

Glen Woodbury, Director

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